

BC PharmaCare Drug Information

The drug below is being considered for possible coverage under the B.C. PharmaCare program. PharmaCare is a government-funded drug plan that helps British Columbians with the cost of eligible prescription drugs and specific medical supplies. For more information on PharmaCare, visit [Ministry of Health - PharmaCare](#).

PharmaCare reviews each drug for treating a specific illness or medical condition (known as an “indication”). If a decision is made to cover the drug, it will be only for that illness or condition.

In some cases, PharmaCare may cover a drug only for people who have the illness or condition and have not responded to other drugs used to treat that illness or condition.

For more information on PharmaCare’s drug coverage review process, see the last page of this information sheet.

Information about the drug	
Generic name (scientific name)	dapagliflozin
Brand name	Forxiga[®]
Manufacturer	Astra Zeneca Canada Inc.
Indication	Forxiga [®] is used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes.
Has the drug been reviewed by the Common Drug Review (CDR)? (see the note below this table.)	Yes For more information about the CDR’s review of dapagliflozin (Forxiga [®]), you can Search the CDR Reports .
Public input start date	Wednesday January 20, 2016
Public input closing date	Wednesday February 17, 2016 AT MIDNIGHT
How is the drug taken?	Forxiga [®] is taken orally (by mouth).
How often is the drug is taken?	Forxiga [®] is taken once daily.

Information about the drug	
General drug and/or drug study information	<p>Type 2 diabetes is a condition in which the body does not make enough insulin and/or does not use the insulin that the body produces as well as it should. When this happens, sugar (glucose) builds up in the blood.</p> <p>Forxiga® belongs to a new anti-diabetic drug class that works directly in the kidneys. It increases the amount of sugar removed from the body in the urine, which reduces the amount of sugar in the blood.</p> <p>Studies looked at the following common outcomes to assess if Forxiga® is helpful and safe for the treatment of type 2 diabetes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood sugar control (including fasting blood glucose, hemoglobin A1c) • Change in body weight • Change in blood pressure • Quality of life • Bad reactions • Serious bad reactions • Bad reactions leading to withdrawals (patient stopped taking the drug) • Notable bad reactions (such as low blood sugar event, urinary tract infection)
Other considerations	None

Note:

The Common Drug Review (CDR) is a national organization that reviews drugs on behalf of Canadian public sector plans when manufacturers want to have the jurisdictions provide coverage for the drugs. For detailed information on B.C. PharmaCare's drug review process, including the role of the CDR in that process, see [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Daily Cost of Therapy
dapagliflozin (Forxiga®)	Under Review	Once daily	\$2.83
Sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors			
canagliflozin (Invokana™)	Under Review	Once daily	\$2.83
empagliflozin (Jardiance™)	Under Review	Once daily	\$2.83
Dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors			
saxagliptin (Onglyza®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$3.07
linagliptin (Trajenta®)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$2.43

Cost of the drug under review compared to other drugs used to treat the same indication			
generic name (Brand Name) of Drug Comparator	PharmaCare Status (if and how the drug is already covered)	Usual Dose	Daily Cost of Therapy
sitagliptin (Januvia®)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$3.22
alogliptin (Nesina™)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$2.83
<i>DPP4 inhibitor plus metformin (fixed dose combinations)</i>			
saxagliptin-metformin (Komboglyze®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$2.74
linagliptin-metformin (Jentadueto®)	Limited Coverage	Twice daily	\$2.56
sitagliptin-metformin (Janumet®, Janumet® XR)	Non-Benefit	Twice daily (Janumet® XR: Once daily)	\$3.46
alogliptin-metformin (Kazano®)	Non-Benefit	Twice daily	\$2.96
<i>Biguanides</i>			
metformin (generics)	Regular Benefit	Three to four times daily	\$0.21 to \$0.28
<i>Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist</i>			
liraglutide (Victoza®)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$5.94 to \$8.91
exenatide (Byetta®)	Non-Benefit	Twice daily	\$5.69 to \$6.19
<i>Sulfonylureas</i>			
gliclazide (generics)	Limited Coverage	Once or twice daily	\$0.10 to \$0.40
gliclazide long-acting (Diamicron® MR)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$0.15 to \$0.54
glimepiride (generics)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$0.49
glyburide (generics)	Regular Benefit	Once or twice daily	\$0.03 to \$0.24
<i>Thiazolidinediones (TZDs)</i>			
pioglitazone (generics)	Limited Coverage	Once daily	\$0.50 to \$1.06
rosiglitazone (Avandia®)	Non-Benefit	Once daily	\$2.33 to \$3.33
<i>Alpha-glucosidase inhibitors</i>			
acarbose (Glucobay™)	Non-Benefit	Three times daily	\$0.87 to \$1.20

The Drug Review Process in B.C.

A manufacturer submits a request to the Ministry of Health (Ministry).

An independent group called the [Drug Benefit Council \(Council\)](#) gives advice to the Ministry. The Council looks at:

- whether the drug is safe and effective
- advice from a national group called the [Common Drug Review \(CDR\)](#)
- what the drug costs and whether it is a good value for the people of B.C.
- ethical considerations involved with covering or not covering the drug
- input from physicians, patients, caregivers, patient groups and drug submission sponsors

The Ministry makes PharmaCare coverage decisions by taking into account:

- the existing PharmaCare policies, programs and resources
- the evidence-informed advice of the Council
- the drugs already covered by PharmaCare that are used to treat similar medical conditions
- the overall cost of covering the drug

For more information about the B.C. Drug Review Process, visit: [The Drug Review Process in B.C. - Overview](#).

This document is intended for information only.

It does not take the place of advice from a physician or other qualified health care provider.